

## Report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

### Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

**Date: 16 November 2017**

**Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry– The impact of Child Poverty on Attainment, Achievement and Attendance**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### Summary of Main Issues

1. At its meeting on the 15 of June 2017, the Scrutiny Board considered potential sources of work for the 2017/18 municipal year. Following discussion with representatives from Children's Services the Board expressed a desire to undertake an inquiry which would consider the effect of child poverty on educational attainment, achievement and school attendance. The Scrutiny Board expressed a desire to understand how the impact of child poverty on a child's education is being challenged, strategically and practically, and also how the impact is managed in order to improve educational outcomes for children, particularly those who are vulnerable, in order to narrow the attainment/achievement gap and improve school attendance.
2. The Scrutiny Board agreed the terms of reference and conducted the first part of the inquiry on the 20 July 2017. At this meeting the Scrutiny Board determined that there would be further focus on the statistical data which would enable the Board to analyse the potential links between poverty and poor achievement, attainment, attendance, and the numbers of identified vulnerable children. This work was originally scheduled to be undertaken in September. Children's Services requested that the analysis of statistical data be deferred until the November meeting of the Scrutiny Board. This request was agreed by the Board at the September Meeting.
3. In accordance with the revised work programme the Director of Children's Services has prepared a report for the Scrutiny Boards consideration. Attendance data will be provided in advance of the school visits (scheduled 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November).

4. The last planned session of this inquiry is scheduled for the 14 December 2017 meeting, which will offer an opportunity for Scrutiny Board Members to provide feedback from the visits and for the Director of Children's Services to respond to matters arising from those visits and this session of the inquiry.

5. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is recommended to:

- a) Note the information contained within this report, and the information provided by the Director of Children and Families.
- b) Note the verbal information presented at the meeting
- c) Make recommendations as deemed appropriate.